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10/602,880	06/25/2003	Kang Soo Seo	1740-0000018/US	2259
30593	7590	12/28/2009	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			JONES, HEATHER RAE	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/602,880	SEO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HEATHER R. JONES	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,6,7,9,16-18,20,21,23-26,29,30,32,33,37 and 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,6,7,9,16-18,20,21,23-26,29,30,32,33,37 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/21/09,10/29/09,12/10/09</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 37 and 44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 37, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 5,884,004) in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0145702) in view of Hirayama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,819,003).

Regarding claim 1, Sato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths, comprising: a data area storing a plurality of clip files of the video data having multiple playback paths, each clip file being associated with one of the playback paths (Fig. 21; col. 6, lines 65-67); and a management area storing management information for managing reproduction of the video data having multiple playback paths, the management information including a plurality of

information files, each clip file being associated with one of the information files, the one information file providing at least one map for the associated clip file, the map mapping a presentation time stamp to a corresponding source packet address of the associated clip file (Figs. 20-24, 49, and 50; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56 - management tables (maps) store the addresses of the associated clips). However, Sato et al. fails to disclose a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path; and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the plurality of clip files being associated with the playlist, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval in the plurality of clip files, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file including path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Kato et al. reference, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising: a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path (Fig. 30 - EP_map - entry point map); and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval of the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the

playlist file indicating one of the multiple playback paths associated with the clip file (Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an entry point map as well as a playlist directory as described by Kato et al. in the computer readable medium as disclosed by Sato et al. in order to easily locate the next clip file to be played thereby not creating a lag in the video presentation. However, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. fails to disclose that the playlist file includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Hirayama et al. reference, Hirayama et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising a playlist file that includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist (Fig. 8A; Fig. 9A - discloses how many stories there are; col. 9, lines 18-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist as disclosed by Hirayama et al. in the medium disclosed by Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in order to have the multiple playback paths played back seamlessly.

Regarding claim 2, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1

including that a group of playlist files is associated with each playback path (Sato et al.: Figs. 20-24 – shows different playback paths).

Regarding claim **6**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the navigation information in a navigation information in a navigation area, the navigation information managing the playlist file to be reproduced (Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim **7**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 and 6 including that the different playback paths are related to different stories (Sato et al.: Fig. 21 - different scenarios).

Regarding claim **9**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the video data for each playback path is stored in a different clip file (Sato et al.: col. 6, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim **16**, Sato et al. discloses a method of video data having multiple playback paths for each title from a recording medium, comprising: receiving user input selecting one of playback paths (col. 32, line 56 – col. 33, line 16); reproducing at least the playlist file associated with the selected playback path recorded on the recording medium (Figs. 18, 20-24, and 30; col. 21, lines 12-19; col. 22, lines 23-33); reproducing the clip file of the video data having multiple playback paths from the recording medium (col. 32, line 56 - col.

33, line 16); and reproducing management information for managing reproduction of the video data having multiple playback paths from a management area of the recording medium, the management information including a plurality of information files, the clip file being associated with one of the information files, the information file providing at least one map for the associated clip file, the map mapping a presentation times stamp to a corresponding address in the associated clip file (Figs. 20-24, 49, and 50; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56 - management tables (maps) store the addresses of the associated clips). However, Sato et al. fails to disclose a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path; and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval in a clip file, the clip file being associated with the playlist, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file including path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Kato et al. reference, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising: a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path (Fig. 30 - EP_map - entry point map); and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one

playing interval of the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file indicating one of the multiple playback paths associated with the clip file (Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an entry point map as well as a playlist directory as described by Kato et al. in the method as disclosed by Sato et al. in order to easily locate the next clip file to be played thereby not creating a lag in the video presentation. However, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. fails to disclose that the playlist file includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Hirayama et al. reference, Hirayama et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising a playlist file that includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist (Fig. 8A; Fig. 9A - discloses how many stories there are; col. 9, lines 18-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist as disclosed by

Hirayama et al. in the medium disclosed by Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in order to have the multiple playback paths played back seamlessly.

Regarding claim 17, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 16 including that the reproducing step reproduces a group of playlist files based on the navigation information for managing the playlist files (Sato et al.: col. 32, line 56 - col. 33, line 16).

Regarding claim 18, Sato et al. discloses a method of recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data on a recording medium, comprising: recording a playlist directory including at least one playlist file in a playlist directory area of the recording medium (col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56; col. 21, lines 12-15), the playlist file for identifying a portion of video data having multiple playback paths (Figs. 18, 20-24, and 30; col. 21, lines 12-19; col. 22, lines 23-33); recording the clip file of the multiple playback path video data in a data area of the recording medium, the clip being associated with one of the playback paths (col. 6, lines 60-65); and recording management information for managing reproduction of the multiple playback path video data in a management area of the recording medium, the management information including a plurality of information files, the clip file being associated with one of the information files, the information file providing the map identifying for the associated clip file, the map containing presentation time stamp to a corresponding source packet address of the associated clip file (Figs. 20-24, 49,

and 50; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56 - management tables (maps) store the addresses of the associated clips). However, Sato et al. fails to disclose a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path; and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval in a clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file including path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Kato et al. reference, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising: a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path (Fig. 30 - EP_map - entry point map); and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval of the clip file, the clip file being associated with the playlist, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file indicating one of the multiple playback paths associated with the clip file (Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an entry point map as well as a playlist directory as described by Kato et al. in the method as disclosed by Sato et al. in order to easily locate the next clip file to be played thereby not creating a lag in the video presentation. However, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. fails to disclose that the playlist file includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Hirayama et al. reference, Hirayama et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising a playlist file that includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist (Fig. 8A; Fig. 9A - discloses how many stories there are; col. 9, lines 18-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist as disclosed by Hirayama et al. in the medium disclosed by Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in order to have the multiple playback paths played back seamlessly.

Regarding claim 20, Sato et al. discloses an apparatus for recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having multiple playback paths, comprising: an optical pickup (1200) configured to record data on a recording medium (Fig. 2); and a controller (200 and 1200), operably

coupled to the optical pickup, configured to control the optical pickup to record at least one clip file of the encoded video data in a data area on the recording medium, the clip file being associated with one of the playback paths (Figs. 18, 20-24, and 30; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56; col. 21, lines 12-19; col. 22, lines 23-33), the controller configured to control the optical pickup to record at least one playlist file, the playlist file including at least one playitem in a playlist directory area of the recording medium, each playlist file for identifying a portion of the video data, the controller configured to control the optical pickup to record management information for managing reproduction of the encoded video data in a management area of the recording medium, the management information including a plurality of information files, the clip file being associated with one of the information files, the map mapping presentation time stamp to a corresponding address in the associated clip file (Figs. 20-24, 49, and 50; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56 - management tables (maps) store the addresses of the associated clips; col. 22, lines 11-12). However, Sato et al. fails to disclose a map identifying at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path; and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval in the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the clip file being associated with the playlist, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous

playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file including path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Kato et al. reference, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising: a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path (Fig. 30 - EP_map - entry point map); and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval of the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file indicating one of the multiple playback paths associated with the clip file (Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an entry point map as well as a playlist directory as described by Kato et al. in the apparatus as disclosed by Sato et al. in order to easily locate the next clip file to be played thereby not creating a lag in the video presentation. However, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. fails to disclose that the playlist file includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Hirayama et al. reference, Hirayama et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of

video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising a playlist file that includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist (Fig. 8A; Fig. 9A - discloses how many stories there are; col. 9, lines 18-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist as disclosed by Hirayama et al. in the medium disclosed by Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in order to have the multiple playback paths played back seamlessly.

Regarding claim 21, Sato et al. discloses an apparatus for reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having multiple playback paths, comprising: an optical pickup (2004) configured to reproduce data recorded on a recording medium (Fig. 3); and a controller (2002), operably coupled to the optical pickup, configured to control the optical pickup to reproduce at least one playlist file in a playlist directory area of the recording medium (Figs. 18, 20-24, and 30; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56; col. 21, lines 12-19; col. 22, lines 23-33), the playlist file for identifying a portion of the video data (Figs. 18, 20-24, and 30; col. 20, lines 23-53; col. 21, lines 12-19; col. 22, lines 23-33); the controller configured to control the optical pickup to reproduce at least one clip file of the at least video data from a data area of the recording medium, the clip file being associated with one of the playback paths (col. 6, lines 60-65; col. 32, line 56 - col. 33, line 16); the controller configured to

control the optical reproducing unit to reproduce management information for managing reproduction of the at least video data in a management area of the recording medium, the management information including a plurality of information files, the clip file being associated with one of the information files, each information file providing at least one map for the associated clip file, the map mapping presentation time stamp to a corresponding address in the associated clip file (Figs. 20-24, 49, and 50; col. 6, lines 60-64; col. 20, lines 22-56 - management tables (maps) store the addresses of the associated clips). However, Sato et al. fails to disclose a map identifying at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path; and a playlist directory area storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval in the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file including path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist, the clip file being associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Kato et al. reference, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising: a map including at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path (Fig. 30 - EP_map - entry point map); and a playlist directory area storing at least one

playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying at least one playing interval of the clip file, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip file, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem, the playlist file indicating one of the multiple playback paths associated with the clip file (Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an entry point map as well as a playlist directory as described by Kato et al. in the apparatus as disclosed by Sato et al. in order to easily locate the next clip file to be played thereby not creating a lag in the video presentation. However, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. fails to disclose that the playlist file includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist.

Referring to the Hirayama et al. reference, Hirayama et al. discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having multiple playback paths for each title, comprising a playlist file that includes path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist (Fig. 8A; Fig. 9A - discloses how many stories there are; col. 9, lines 18-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist as disclosed by

Hirayama et al. in the medium disclosed by Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in order to have the multiple playback paths played back seamlessly.

Regarding claim **23**, Sato et al. in view Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 20 including that a group of playlist files is associated with each playback path (Figs. 20-24 – shows different playback paths).

Regarding claim **24**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims 20 and 23 including that the navigation information is stored in a navigation area, the navigation information for managing the playlist file (Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim **25**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 21 including that a group of playlist files is associated with each playback path (Kato et al.: Figs. 20-24 – shows different playback paths).

Regarding claim **26**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims 21 and 25 including that the navigation information is stored in a navigation area, the navigation information for managing the playlist file (Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim **29**, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 16

including reproducing navigation information stored in a navigation area, the navigation information for managing the playlist file (Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim 30, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 18 including that reproducing at least one playlist file reproduces a group of playlist files based on the navigation information (Sato et al.: col. 6, lines 60-67; col. 20, lines 22-56; col. 21, lines 12-15).

Regarding claim 32, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 18 recording navigation information for managing the playlist file (Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim 33, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 19 including that the recording the at least one playlist file records a group of playlist files based on the navigation information (Sato et al.: col. 6, lines 60-67; col. 20, lines 22-56; col. 21, lines 12-15; Kato et al.: Fig. 25; paragraphs [0253]-[0264]).

Regarding claim 37, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the at least one clip file is linked to more than one of the plurality of playlist files (Sato et al.: Fig. 21).

Regarding claim 44, Sato et al. in view of Kato et al. in view of Hirayama et al. discloses all limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the clip file includes source packets, the source packets including a header and a transport packet, the transport packet including a packet identifier (PID), the source packet including a source packet number indicating the address in the clip file (Kato et al.: paragraph [0378]).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEATHER R. JONES whose telephone number is (571)272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Heather R Jones
Examiner
Art Unit 2621

HRJ
December 21, 2009

/Thai Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621